

**RE: Electoral Review of Warrington Borough Council – Warrington South Constituency**

I have been delegated by the Warrington South Conservative Association to co-ordinate the response from our executive and to issue this submission in response to your Draft Recommendations published on 25 August 2015 for the changes to the Ward boundaries in the Warrington South Constituency.

Whilst we are content with most of your proposals and the commission's decision to amortise the number of voters with the numbers of Councillors, we do have some specific concerns with changes you have set out in your options for the Warrington Borough.

There is good adherence to the numbers of electors within the 10% rule in the commission's document, however there is a distinct lack of consideration for community cohesion and a serious mismatch with existing Parish boundaries.

For these reasons, we request that you revisit your proposal for the wards of Hatton, Stretton & Walton and Lymm, and the subsequent impact on the adjoining wards of Stockton Heath, Appleton, Grappenhall & Thelwall. There are other options that comply with the 10% variance requirement that will also fulfill the important aim of retaining Borough and Parish wards coterminous entities; this in itself leads to greater community cohesion and identity.

As an example, under the commission's current proposal, the Parish council for Stockton Heath would have six Borough Councillors to liaise with, as opposed to the current two. The six would be from Appleton, Grappenhall and Stockton Heath Wards, and hence it would not be immediately clear which of the 6 individuals would have responsibility for all or any part of the Parish wards. This will undoubtedly lead to confusion, not only for the electors, but also for Councillors from both local bodies. A similar situation would also exist for the other Parish wards in Warrington South as a result of these proposals.

Hatton, Stretton & Walton, as a more rural community, has distinct needs with regards representation. The challenges faced by its residents differ to that of the adjacent wards of Stockton Heath & Appleton. On this basis it has been well served under the current boundary system with a single Councillor.

Lymm is a community in all senses of the word, with a thriving Centre and a distinct identity. To split this community will create two wards that are not recognised in the day-to-day lives of its constituents. Again, confusion would also be created as to which Councillor residents should address.

As is apparent in the WBC proposal (6 July 2015), these two significant changes are not necessary. The rebalancing of numbers across the Borough can be achieved whilst retaining the ward of Hatton, Stretton & Walton and maintaining Lymm as the distinct community it is today. We support this original proposal submitted by Warrington Borough Council at the start of this review process.

On a final note, we would like to point out that the mere use of numbers of electors does not reflect the amount of work that any one Councillor may be engaged in. Some wards have an amount of work disproportionate to the number of electors. This has carried no weight in your considerations to date and should be taken into account.

Yours Faithfully



Chairman

Warrington South Conservative Association